46

POL 23-9 GREECE

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THESSA 00044 091325Z

05
ACTION NEA 19

INFO TUR 25,SP 02,SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,INR 07,P 04,CIA
DOD 01,NSAE 00,USIA 12,ACDA 17,AID 30,OPR 02,RSR 01,/174 W

R 080900Z SEP 67
FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 116
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS 86
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 10
AMEMBASSY ANKARA 08
AMEMBASSY LONDON 08
AMEMBASSY PARIS 10

C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 44

1. THERE ARE SCATTERED AND PATTERNLESS INDICATIONS THAT RESISTANCE TO JUNTA IS HARDENING IN THIS AREA AND BEGINNING TO ERUPT IN VIOLENCE:

A. RECENTLY POLICEMAN WAS KNIFED TO DEATH IN VILLAGE OF CRIOVRISI (NEAR YIANNITSA 25 MILES WEST OF THESSALONIKI). ALTHOUGH POSSIBLE HIS DEATH RESULTED FROM PERSONAL QUARREL, GENDARMERIE SUSPECTS COMMUNISTS, POSSIBLY ONE RECENTLY

PAGE 2 RUQMAT 044 C O N F I D E N T I A L
FREED AND ORIGINALLY "FINGERED" BY VICTIM.
B. NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 5, FIVE YOUNG MEN, REPORTEDLY KNOWN COMMUNISTS, WERE SURPRISED BY POLICE IN HARILAO DISTRICT HERE. POLICE SURROUNDED HOUSE AND CALLED FOR THEIR SURRENDER. INSTEAD, YOUNG MEN DREW PISTOLS AND BEGAN FIRING. TWO OF THEM ATTEMPTED ESCAPE THROUGH BACK DOOR AND WERE SHOT DOWN. ONE OF THEM, IOANNIS XALKIDIN, AGED 27, WAS KILLED, ANOTHER

CONFIDENTIAL

Thessaloniki 44
9-8-67

Department of State

DECLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THESSA 00044 091325Z

WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED AND IS NOW INCARCERATED MILITARY HOSPITAL. THREE REMAINING MEMBERS OF GROUP AS WELL AS HOUSE OWNER WERE ARRESTED. WE HAVE THIS STORY FROM MORE THAN ONE RELIABLE SOURCE. THERE IS FURTHER SINISTER TWIST. ONE SOURCE ASSERTS MEETING CONCERNED SECOND BOMBING ATTEMPT. FIRST ATTEMPT WAS TO BE MADE ON CENTRAL POWER STATION DURING HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF MINISTERS FOR OPENING OF THESSALONIKI FAIR SEPTEMBER 2. WHEN THAT ATTEMPT FAILED, INSTIGATORS ASSEMBLED TO PLAN ANOTHER.

[redacted]

2. CIRCULATION OF INFLAMMATORY MIMEOGRAPHED "NEWS" SHEETS

PAGE 3 RUQMAT 044 C O N F I D E N T I A L
CONTINUES. WE HAVE HEARD FROM RELIABLE SOURCES OF DISCONTENT WITHIN RANKS OF POLICE, RELEGATED TO POSITION SUBORDINATE TO MILITARY WHICH HAS TAKEN OVER MOST OF THEIR FUNCTIONS. THERE ARE REPORTS OF NUMEROUS ARMY OFFICERS NOT CONTENT WITH REGIME OR WITH ARMY'S ROLE IN POLITICAL LIFE OF GREECE. MOST OF THESE ARE STILL STORIES, NOT HARD INFORMATION. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE INCIDENTS REPORTED ABOVE ARE BEING REPEATED ELSEWHERE OR WITH ANY FREQUENCY. NO INDICATION THESE INCIDENTS ARE PART OF LARGER ORGANIZED MOVEMENT, BUT THEY MAY AUGUR INCREASING VIOLENT REACTION, IN TURN FORCING JUNTA TO EVEN MORE PROCRUSTEAN MEASURES THAN THEY HAVE THUS FAR TAKEN TO INSURE THEIR CONTROL. GP-3. HAMILTON

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL